



## Edmonton Classical Academy Parent Council Newsletter

At our most recent School Council meetings, the topic of **school culture** has come up again and again. This year, we have seen **fewer parents volunteering** at events, fewer families **attending** school activities, and **less engagement** in our fundraising initiatives.

While ECA continues to grow and thrive academically, the life of our **community**- our shared spirit and connection- **is at risk** when fewer parents step forward to participate. **It takes a village** to raise our children, and this is the village we have all chosen to build together. But a village **needs villagers**.

ECA is Edmonton's first tuition-free charter school of its kind, and **we are making history**. The culture, identity, and reputation of this school are shaped not only by what happens inside classrooms, but by **the families** who commit to showing up, lending their skills, and helping guide **the direction** of our community. **The ECA School Council and Fundraising Society** are volunteer-led groups that support our staff, fund the programs that enrich our students' education, and nurture the virtues that make ECA so unique.

Now more than ever, we need parents to step forward to help **shape our identity**, strengthen our **mission**, and support the **vision** that Edmonton Classical Academy has created for us. Your involvement ensures that the programs, traditions, and initiatives that **define our school** continue to thrive. We need parents to **bring their voices**, ideas, and energy to the board, committees and events so that **all communities within our school are represented** and our shared **culture reflects everyone**.

We invite you to join us at one of our upcoming **meetings** (see below for dates) to learn about the initiatives we are working on, discover opportunities to contribute, and play a direct role in **building the legacy** of this school.

Together, we can ensure that ECA is more than a school- but a **vibrant, connected community** where every family feels supported, and part of something truly groundbreaking.

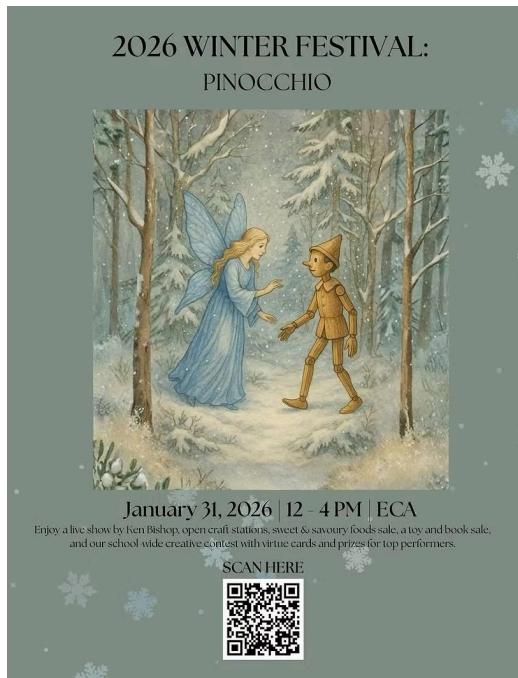
*For all updated information on the ECA School Council & Fundraising Society, school events, meeting notes, volunteer opportunities and more, please visit our new website at <https://www.ecaegschoolcouncil.com>*

*If there is anything you would like added to this newsletter or you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please email [communications@ecaegschoolcouncil.com](mailto:communications@ecaegschoolcouncil.com)*

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The Winter Carnival is Saturday!



17 **Saturday, January 31 | 12:00–4:00 PM**

Our Winter Festival is almost here, and there are four easy ways to take part and help make this a joyful, welcoming day for our entire school community.

### **1. Get Your Tickets**

Join us for a family-friendly afternoon filled with storytelling, crafts, puppet magic, games, food, and community connection.

 [Buy tickets here!](#)

### **2. Volunteer at the Festival**

Volunteering is a great way to meet other families, support the school, and help the event run smoothly. Even one short shift makes a meaningful difference.

 [Sign up to volunteer](#)

### **3. Contribute to the Bake Sale / Food Tables**

Homemade or store-bought items are both welcome. These tables are always a highlight and help support school fundraising.

 [Sign up to bring food](#)

### **4. Donate Books & Toys (pop-up sale)**



We are collecting gently used children's books and toys for our Book & Toy Sale. This is a wonderful way to pass stories and play forward to new families.

### 👉 **To donate**

Please bring your books and toys **on the day of the Winter Festival**. Whatever is not sold **needs to come home with you** or it will be donated to a local donation centre.

Every ticket purchased, shift volunteered, treat baked, and item donated helps make this festival warm, memorable, and truly community-led.

**Thank you for being part of what makes ECA special** ❤️

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## **Father Daughter Dance: A Special Evening for ECA Girls and Their Fathers or Important Role Models**



**When:** Friday, February 20th 6pm-8:30pm

**Where:** ECA Gym

**Tickets:** Available [HERE](#) for \$5/person



**Dress Code:** Semi-formal

We are excited to share that our annual **Father–Daughter Dance** is returning! This cherished event gives our students a chance to enjoy a memorable evening with their father or father-figure, celebrating connection, joy, and community spirit.

Enjoy an evening of music, dancing, and refreshments.

*This event is open to fathers and daughters, or special male role models.*

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## Casino Volunteer Update — Two Spots Left!

We have a couple of remaining volunteer positions to fill for our upcoming Casino fundraiser:

**Day Cashier Sunday**, March 15 1:30PM-8:30PM

**Evening Countroom**, March 15 11:00PM- 3:30AM

If you're available to work these shifts or be a backup, please sign up below:

👉 [Sign Up for March 14](#)

👉 [Sign Up for March 15](#)

If you're able to take on these important roles, please sign up now! It would be a huge help to the school to **raise over \$75,000** towards our initiatives.

We're also building a waitlist of **backup volunteers**, in case we have last-minute cancellations. If you're open to being a backup, we'd love to add your name. Just scroll to the bottom of the shift list and add your information to Backup Volunteer.

Thank you to everyone who has already stepped up to support this major fundraiser for our school community! You should have received an email about your shift at this point. If you haven't, please email [casino@ecaegschoolcouncil.com](mailto:casino@ecaegschoolcouncil.com).

Thank you for helping us reach our goal and supporting our school community — we couldn't do it without you!

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## Healthy Hunger

Healthy Hunger is an **online lunch-ordering program** that turns school lunches into a simple, sustainable fundraiser for our school. Families pre-order meals from approved local restaurants and vendors, which are delivered directly to the school on designated days. Parents order and pay online in advance, and a **portion of every meal purchased is returned to the school**, creating consistent fundraising revenue. It's a win for everyone: schools receive ongoing financial support for student programs, families get convenient, kid-approved meals, and local restaurants gain meaningful community partnerships.

- February 6, 2026 Boston Pizza
- February 20, 2026 Opa! Of Greece
- March 6, 2026 Wayback Burgers
- Match 27, 2026 Dairy Queen

Healthy Hunger is one of ECA's **most successful fundraisers**, bringing in much-needed funds to support important school initiatives. Its success depends on **parent volunteers** who help distribute lunches during the school day. If you are able to lend a hand, please contact Busi Mangena at [busi.mangena@gov.ab.ca](mailto:busi.mangena@gov.ab.ca) to sign up for a lunch distribution shift.

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## Council Meetings

**We need more parents** to bring their voices, skills, and perspectives to the board and committees so that **all communities** within our school are represented. If you believe in what ECA stands for, **this is your moment to step in**.

**Join us at an upcoming meeting**, learn about our initiatives, and discover how your involvement can help shape the legacy of this school.

- Thursday, February 19, 2026
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- Thursday, April 16, 2026
- Wednesday, May 20, 2026
- Thursday, June 18, 2026

Meetings alternate monthly between Wednesday and Thursday evenings at ECA. Please join us to hear updates, share ideas, and connect.



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## Community- Join A Committee

Whether you can volunteer once a month or once a year, there's a spot for you!

**1-hour helpers:** Hot lunch or PlayPod support.

**Creative planners:** Join Events or Festivals Committees.

**Organizers welcome:** We're seeking a chair for the **Minor Repairs, Playground and Playpod Committees**

**Parents of Grade 4 & 9:** We are looking for this year's graduation ceremony committees for the grade 4 & grade 9 graduations.

*Please reach out to Kelsa Unruh at [scchair@ecaegschoolcouncil.com](mailto:scchair@ecaegschoolcouncil.com) if you are interested in supporting our school through one of the above initiatives.*

**Communications:** Share updates and keep families informed and connected.

[Anya Yahnishchak](#)

**Festivals Committee:** Help plan and run fun seasonal school festivals (2 every year - Winter and Spring).

Maria Laura Giordani, [Anya Yahnishchak](#)

**Playground Committee:** Planning and fundraising efforts for a future playground.

*Vacant*

**Playpod Committee:** Running and maintenance of the playpod.

[Kelsa Unruh](#)

**Library Committee:** Help with organizing library initiatives.

[Rhamona Barber](#)

**Events Committee:** Help plan extra events outside of the festivals (Mother-Son Kickball, Father-Daughter Dance, and more!)

[Meagan Jakubec](#)

**Teachers & School Support Committee:** Coordinate appreciation efforts and classroom support.

[Faith Bodnarek](#), Colyssa Stoik

**School Concerts Committee:** Support with school concerts.



### Oksana Shyshyna

**Grant Writing Committee:** Help identify and apply for funding opportunities.

Jeff Jakubec

**Movie & Games Committee:** Help organize and run movie nights and fun family game events.

Simran Chawla

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## Active Fundraisers

### Skip the Depot - Bottle Donation Pick-up

Turn your empties into school support — from your doorstep! Download the Skip the Depot app or visit [skipthedepot.com](http://skipthedepot.com), create an account, and select **Edmonton Classical Academy School Council** as your charity. Your refundable bottles are picked up and credited directly to the school — no trip required!

### Mabels Labels - Year Round Label Fundraiser

Keep your kids' items out of lost-and-found while giving back to the school! Visit [mabelslabels.ca](http://mabelslabels.ca) and choose **Edmonton Classical Academy School Council** from the fundraising list before checkout. A portion of every order goes directly to ECA initiatives. Perfect for water bottles, uniforms, and gear!

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## Stay Connected

Email: [scchair@ecaegschoolcouncil.com](mailto:scchair@ecaegschoolcouncil.com)

Telegram: Join our parent community chat for updates and reminders.

Website: <https://www.ecaegschoolcouncil.com/>